(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to constitute a Special Squad of the Railway Board to monitor the reservation system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some complaints have come to notice.

(b) Central Ticket Checking Squad and Vigilance Special Squad are already functioning in the Ministry of Railways who conduct checks at the stations and in trains to, inter-alia, detect the cases of malpractices in reservations. Besides, checks are also conducted by both Commercial and Vigilance Organizations at the Zonal Railways level also to detect the malpractices in reservations Offices. These arrangements are considered adequate.

Teesta Torsha Express

4090. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demands were received by his Ministry from different sector for providing of AC Sleeper Coach in Teesta Torsha Express and increasing its speed;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some demands have been received in this regard.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to provide an A.C. 2nd Sleeper coach on 3141/3142 Teesta Torsha Express during 1996-97. However, speeding up of this train is not feasible at present due to operational constraints.

Occupation of Railway Quarters by Other than the Allottees

4091. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Railway quarters in cities and metropolis are under the occupation of persons other than the allottees;

(b) if so, the details thereof, city-wise;

(c) whether any punitive action was taken against the offenders during each of the last three years by the North East Frontier Railway;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Noise Pollution

4092. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the noise pollution results in the increase in deafness, heart beat, fluctuation in blood pressure, disorder in digestive system, muscles pull and loss of physical efficiency, and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to control the rising noise pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Excessive noise may cause temporary or permanent hearing loss and physiological disorders depending upon the intensity and duration of exposure.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to reduce noise pollution include the following :

- Noise pollution has been included in the Air (prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Ambient Standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas (residential, commercial, industrial and silence zones) have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

  Noise limits have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment at the manufacturing stage.

- A code of practice for controlling noise at source, other than industries and automobiles, has been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board.

- Steps have been taken for regulating the movement of heavy vehicles and segregating industries from residential areas.

- Environmental awareness campaigns have been launched through governmental and non-governmental organizations.

[*English*]

Boggies of the Trains

4093. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state :

(a) whether most of the boggies of the trains running in the country particularly under the Western Railway are in an obsolete condition,

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to replace them with new and good conditioned boggies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) No Sir. No obsolete coaches are running on trains in the country including on Western Railway. The useful economical life of a passenger carrying coach is about 25 years Therefore, at any given time, coaches of various age profile are running safely on trains. As and when coach becomes uneconomical to maintain, they are withdrawn from service and are replaced by new coaches.

Laying of Railway Line

4094. SHRI P. kODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey to lay a railway line between Chitradurga and Rayadurga in Karnataka has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the construction work of this long pending railway line would start; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The construction of Chitradurga-Rayadurga new line has already been completed and opened to traffic on 31.8.94.

Rail Link from Raughat to Jagdalpur

4095. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to connect Raughat to Jagdalpur for extending this railway line for transport of iron-ore from Bailadila to Bhilai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time frame in which this railway line is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jogdalpur new broad gauge line (235 kms.) has been included in Railway Budget of 1995-96 at an estimated cost of Rs. 369 crores. SAIL will bear the actual cost of construction between Dallirajahara and Rowghat (95 kms.). Work can be taken up after the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and deposit of money by SAIL and other parties. Ministry of Steel are awaiting final clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests to use of Bailadila Mines, and have indicated that they would sign the MOU and release the amount only after the clearance from MOEF is received. The target for completion of the line would be fixed once the work is started.

Construction of Railway Bridge on Ganga

4096. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for construction of Railway bridge over Ganga, connecting Patna and Sonepur is pending for a long time with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the implementation of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The final location survey and detailed investigations for the bridge has been taken up.

Arms Dropping in Purulia

4097. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the accused involved in the arms dropping case in Purulia have been apprehended;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the objectives of arms dropping have been ascertained;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation, who are investigating the matter relating to arms dropping in Purulia have initimated that the CBI have filed charge sheet against 13 accused persons. Of these 13 persons, 6 are in judicial custody and the remaining 7 persons are absconding. CBI have also arrested one more person from Bihar in June, 1996. He is also in judicial custody.

(c) and (d) The investigation conducted by the CBI so far has revealed that the fire arms etc. were meant for a section of Anand Margis, who are having allegiance to Proutist Universal, which is an Anand Marg Organization. Proutist Universal is having political objectives and has offices in many countries in the world.

(e) Government is alive to the situation and are taking all steps in this regard which include gearing up of intelligence machinery, stricter enforcement of existing regulations by the concerned Departments/Organizations and a closer coordination between the concerned Central and State agencies.

Inferior Quality Rifles

4098. SHRI RAMSAGR :Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :